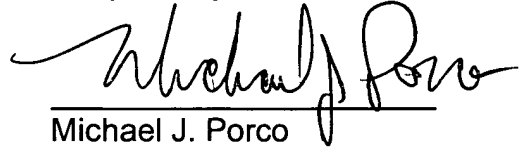


REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, Applicants have claimed priority to US Application Serial No. 60/426,155 filed on November 14, 2002.

Early and favorable consideration of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Porco", written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Porco
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 46,007

CARTER, DELUCA, FARRELL & SCHMIDT, LLP

445 Broad Hollow Road – Suite 225

Melville, New York 11747

(631) 501-5708

(631) 501-3526

MJP/gm